

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain in this application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

A new Abstract of the Disclosure

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A vertical magnetic recording medium has a low-noise characteristic compared to media of a permalloy or sendust crystalline material, including a high-flatness soft magnetic backing layer, and enabling recording/reproduction of information at high recording density, a magnetic recorder provided with the vertical magnetic recording medium, a vertical magnetic recording medium manufacturing method and apparatus. The vertical magnetic recording medium has a multilayer structure on a substrate, in which a soft magnetic backing layer, a vertical recording layer of a ferromagnetic body, and a protective layer are formed. The soft magnetic backing layer is formed of an FeSiAlN film of a soft magnetic material. The atom% of each element of Fe, Si, Al, and N of the FeSiAlN film can be changed by changing the flow rate of N₂ gas in a mixture gas of N₂ gas and Ar gas introduced into the chamber.